



See page 54

WHO WAS THE BOSS BAKER?



Skagway B-4.1a



Cordova B-4a

In the May, 2004 issue of this newsletter, we had an article on "The Boss Baker." At that time, it seemed the Steven Baur was the Boss Baker. Two obituaries for two different "Boss Bakers" in the newspapers on the Library of Congress "Chronicling America" website muddies the waters.

From our article of 2004, there were Boss Bakeries in Skagway and Dawson. We find that Steven Baur was in Skagway, disappeared from the directories until 1909 when he is in Cordova. There was no indication that he went to Dawson.

Cordova Daily Times, August 21, 1916.

DEATH CLAIMS OLD RESIDENT

On Saturday morning (ed. note: Aug. 19) at 8:15 o'clock John Stephen Baur died at his home from gastric ulcers. He was taken ill Saturday morning and did not regain consciousness up to the time of his death, when he passed away peacefully.

Mr. Baur was a well known figure about town, and had a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He was a member of the Catholic church and a charter member of the Woodmen of the World lodge at Everett, Wash. The funeral will take place tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, services being held at the Catholic church by Father Shepard.

Deceased was born at Adinow, Germany, on September 9, 1860 and came to America in 1884. He spent a year in New York and Chicago, and in 1885 located in Walla Walla, Wash. There he met his wife, who was then Miss Annie Lux, and they were married in 1884. During the stampede in Alaska in 1897 Mr. and Mrs. Baur went to Skagway, where they remained four years, then returned to Everett. In 1908 they came to Cordova where they have resided ever since. For the first three months the deceased was employed as a baker for the railroad company, after which he started the Boss Bakery, which he conducted up to the time of his death.

A wife and two children, Mrs. E. S. Norland of Everett and Leonard Baur of Cordova, and also a sister, Mrs. Hoffman of Twin Falls, Idaho, survive the deceased.



Cordova Daily Alaskan
Dec. 9, 1911

Small line ads for the Boss Baker appear in Skagway from 1899-1901. Baur seems to be gone from Skagway by March 21, 1902, with Fred Ronkendorf the new owner of the Boss Bakery. Ronkendorf sold the bakery in 1906.

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

The most fun one can have with Alaska tokens (or any token for that matter) is researching them. The most frustrating thing is researching them. But the fun is in the searching, not the finding. At least that is what I keep telling myself.

In this issue we take another look at three items we have examined before. The Boss Baker and Ah King still have unanswered questions. J.D. Williams digs up information on the Alaska Boosters Association.

The Rowdy token from Valdez brought a healthy price. I can't remember the last time I saw a Hop Wo token. It appears that someone is breaking up a food stamp token collection. A Gambier Bay 10¢ token, unlisted but not unknown, brought \$770. Obviously the buyer does not read this newsletter.

Stack's Bowers sold a gold Alaska Statehood medal by Medallie Arts for \$36,000!!!

The Alaska lots from our April 29 auction are included in this issue. If you would like a complete auction listing, please let us know.

Alaska's Congressman Don Young passed away this month. We offer 1 oz. silver medals celebrating his 25 years in Congress in 1998 (the medal is 24 years old!) on page 57.

There will be no newsletter in June, one of my months off. The next issue will be July (perhaps mailed mid-June).

* * * * *

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PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

Anchorage , Canteen Bar, 12½¢, B-10a	31.00
Bering River , Hoonah Pkg. Co. 50¢, B-1d	66.88u
Cheforak , CN Store FST, set of 5	212.79
Gambier Bay , Hoonah Pkg. Co., 10¢, B-1f	770.00
Haines , Teddy Bear Coffee, 25¢, B-13b, NGC-62	45.44
Kasigluk , Co-Op Store FST, set of 4	47.25
Ketchikan , Hop Wo, 10¢, B-17a	154.28
Palmer , ARRC, 1¢, B-1a	208.50
Palmer , ARRC, 25¢, B-1d	272.00
Scammon Bay , AMRS FST, set of 4	95.02
Skagway , Idaho Saloon, 10¢, B-14a, NGC-64	27.65
Skagway , Shamrock Beer Parlor, 12½¢, B-24a	45.00OB
Teller , ½ Bottle Whiskey (Fantasy)	26.50
Valdez , Blackwell/Rowdy, no denom. B-2a	562.51
Wrangell , Benjamins FST set of 5	127.50
Alaska Statehood gold medal (Stack's)	36,000.00

OB = Opening Bid; NB = No Bid; RL = relist; R = Reserve; RNM = Reserve Not Met; W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now; BOA = Best Offer Accepted; DNS = Did Not Sell; SUP = sold, unknown price. FTR = see For the Record.

NEAT ARTICLE ON JIM ROBB

The CBC has a neat online article about Whitehorse artist Jim Robb.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/jim-robb-drawing-yukon-s-history-colourful-characters-1.6405994>

P.H. HARKIN - DAWSON

P.H. Harkin is shown as a property owner on Block O, lot 4, North ½, in North



Dawson from 1902-1904. Harkin is shown as Harkin in "Property Ownership in North Dawson City During the Klondike Gold Rush" by Michael Brand, The Northern Review, Fall, 2008.

Readers will remember that Harkin was a restaurant owner in Whitehorse and died "shooting the White Horse Rapids" in May 1903.

Apparently, he was still the owner of record of the property in Dawson at the time of his death. Ron Benice writes (August, 2019, page 75) "According to his 1903 obituary, "he went to White Horse this spring."

WHO WAS THE BOSS BAKER? CONT.

Baur returned to Alaska in 1908 and established the Boss Bakery. He lived there until his death in 1916.

Cordova Daily Times, December 29, 1916.
BOSS BAKERY CHANGES LOCATION AND OWNERSHIP

The Boss Bakery will move into its new location in the Wilson building on January 1, and will hereafter be conducted as a bakery and lunch room, the restaurant feature being dropped. Leonard Baur has purchased the business from his mother, Mrs. S. Baur, who expects to leave shortly for Everett, Wash. to be with her daughter, Mrs. E.S. Norland, who is not in the best of health. The many friends of Mrs. Baur will be sorry to see her leave Cordova.

But there was another “Boss Baker” in Dawson.

Alaska Daily Empire, January 20, 1920.
Pioneer Baker in Dawson City Dies

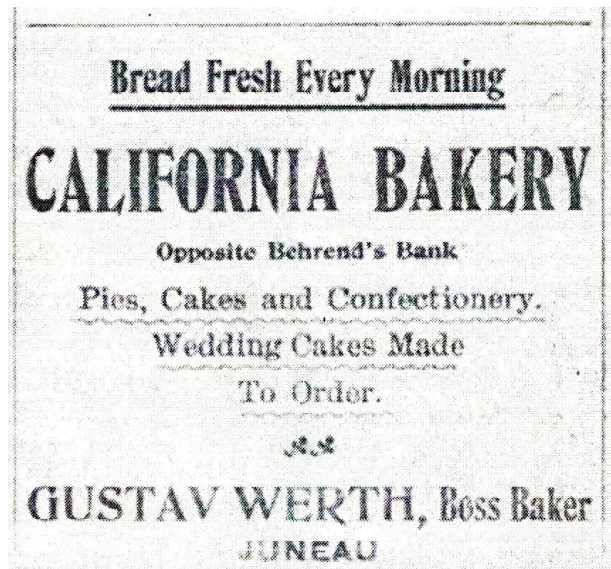
Dawson, Jan. 20. --Senai Pelland, a pioneer baker of this place, died last night. For many years he was the owner of the Boss Baker and sold the first baker's bread in the Klondike during the early gold rush. A number of years ago he sold his bakery and went into the hotel business. He is survived by his three sons. He was a French-Canadian and was born near Montreal.

The directories show Siani Pelland (Pellant, Pellaut) as proprietor of the Boss Bakery in 1901 and 1902. Presumably his ownership of the Boss Bakery predates the directories. By 1903 he owns the Broadway hotel until 1912 when the directories end.

Joseph D. Gadoua was a baker in directories of 1902 and 1909-10, and proprietor of Boss Bakery in 1911-12. It appears perhaps that Gadoua purchased the bakery about 1903.

But muddying the waters even more, there was a Boss Baker in Juneau (see upper right).

It seems that “Boss Baker” was a term for the head baker, or the proprietor of the bakery. But it was not a common term, showing up in only 21 Washington newspapers, and 85 California newspapers.



Douglas Island News, September 27, 1899.

Spokane Press, June 24, 1909.

Even the bakers are having a hard time keeping in work. In the small towns many bakers were turned off when the price of flour began to go up by leaps and bounds. The proprietors or boss bakers took their places and things are coming back to their normal condition very slowly.

Labor Journal, Everett, Wash., Nov. 22, 1912.

...journeymen and boss bakers are anxious for closer affiliation with the main body of organized labor in this city.

So what is left is who to attribute the tokens to, and where. “The Boss Baker” token appears to be the older of the two tokens.

I thought I was onto something when I noticed that Baur's store in Skagway was the “Boss Bakery” in ads. But then any reference to him personally was the “Boss Baker.”

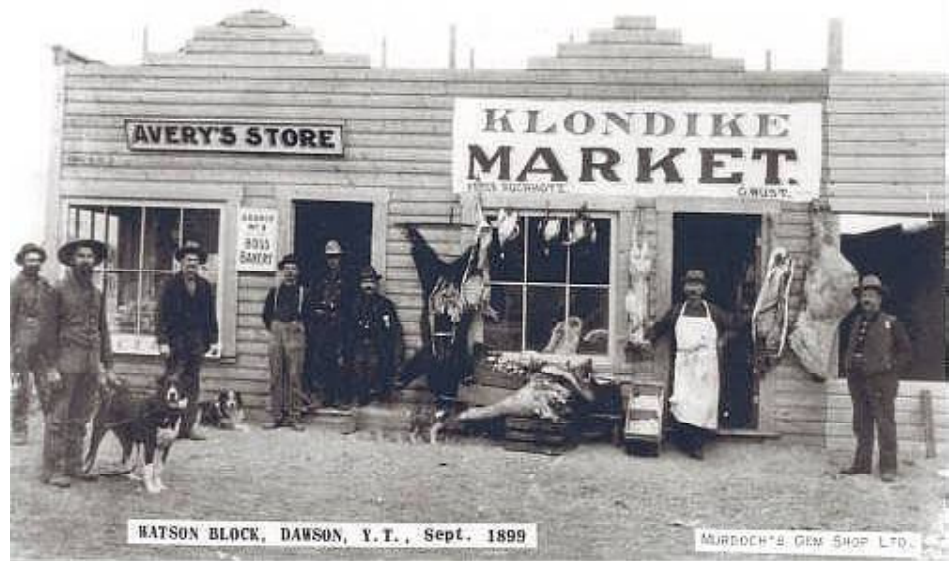
Stephen (Steven) Baur is shown in Skagway in 1901 and Cordova in 1909-10 and 1911-12.

“Frank Brackett, son of the wagon-road builder George Brackett, constructed a one-story false-front building for his Brackett Trading Post in the fall of 1897. In 1898 Boss Baker, Steve Baur, moved into the building. He sold the business to Fred Ronkendorf who remodeled the building in 1902.”¹

¹ www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/klgo/hpd1/app1.htm

WHO WAS THE BOSS BAKER, CONT.

Baur stated that he was planning on shipping his bread to Dawson on the White Pass & Yukon Railroad. "S. Bauer, Boss Baker: Am glad the road is being built on Broadway, because I will not have far to go to put my famous bread on cars and ship it to Dawson." He would need an agent in Dawson. The small sign on Avery's Store, "Branch No. 1, Boss Bakery" lends credence to Baur actually doing this (see the postcard right).



Pellant's Boss Bakery was at 525 Craig St. Avery's store was at 5th and Dugas. These two locations are within spitting distance of each other.

But, can we discount the possibility that this token was issued by Sinai Pellant in Dawson?

Pellant was in business in Dawson from about 1898-1902. Baur was in Skagway from about 1898 to 1902. If a person could be in two places at the same time, they could be the same person!

And if Baur did succeed in shipping his bread to Dawson, to be sold at Avery's store, the token could have been used in both Skagway and Dawson.

While I like Dawson for an attribution (the token is more beat up than the usual token we see from Skagway), Skagway gets the nod at this time.

As to Cordova B-4a, it is an odd duck. There are few nickel alloy Alaska tokens. I hate to put it this way, but it reminds me of the Rutlader tokens (catalogued as Goodnews Bay but believed to be fantasy pieces). The fabrication is similar.

Even more speculation. Perhaps Baur saw how worn out "The Boss Baker" tokens became in a short period of time, and opted for a more substantial material for his second token.

It is all speculation, but I think the current attributions will have to stand unless further information is discovered. But if "The Boss Baker" crosses my desk, I will add it to my Dawson collection.

ALASKA EXPLORATION COMPANY

Daily Morning Alaskan, Skagway, Dec. 8, 1900.

Alaska Exploration Company Asks Yukon Council for Privilege of Establishing Modern Transportation - Work to Begin at Once.

[Special Dispatch to Daily Alaskan]

Dawson, Dec. 7 - The Alaska Exploration Company will put an electric street rail car system in Dawson and out to the creeks if it can get a franchise from the Yukon Council. The petition has been presented to the council and will be acted on it at once.

It is proposed to build fifty miles of the road before spring if the franchise shall be granted, and the promoters agree to spend more than one million dollars on the system.

The Alaska Exploration Company is one of the largest concerns operating in the interior and is amply able to carry to a successful termination the work it proposes. If the franchise is granted it will mean the employment of much labor during the next year at Dawson.

Well, this is at least more reasonable than the mono-rail mentioned in the November/December issue!



AN ILL-FATED VENTURE

Alaska Booster Trade Dollars

by J.D. Williams



Previous issues of the Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist have covered the \$1 trade tokens issued by Alaska Boosters, the See Alaska Too tokens being among the most common post-statehood tokens. Also covered have been the \$5 and \$20 "Alaska Booster" tokens produced by Global Exchange Limited in 1986, as well as patterns of two of the Global Exchange pieces. But what was Alaska Boosters Assn. and how did it come about?

Alaska Boosters Association, Inc. was incorporated in Alaska on October 20, 1961 as a nonprofit corporation. Although its home state was Alaska, it had its primary office at 1120 4th Avenue in Seattle, Washington. In an ad that appeared in the May 3, 1962 issue of the Anchorage Daily Times (a similar ad having previously run in the Seattle papers) the Alaska Boosters Association explained that:

The Alaska Boosters Association is an organization of businessmen who have investments in both the Northwest and Alaska... We have... dual objectives: to work with the Alaska people in publicizing Alaska through our intensive SEE ALASKA TOO campaign, and to work with the Northwest businessmen in bringing more Alaskan business directly to them.

One of the parts of our program is the circulation of Alaska Booster Trade Dollars, both in Alaska and "outside". We are encouraging Alaskans to bring with them some of the tens of thousands of SEE ALASKA TOO trade dollars to spend with the many progressive Northwest merchants who are cooperating with our program in accepting these coins in trade.

In April and May 1962 Alaska Boosters ran weekly newspaper ads in Anchorage encouraging Alaskans

THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISEMENT HAS BEEN RUN IN THE SEATTLE TIMES AND POST-INTELLIGENCER

As part of the financing of our intensive SEE ALASKA TOO program in the Pacific Northwest, we are circulating many thousands of our trade dollars. We want so many visitors as possible to bring Alaska Boosters trade dollars North with them, and to be able to spend them in all business places in Alaska. We have been receiving inquiries from merchants as far away as Nevada and Montana.

We believe the more SEE ALASKA TOO trade dollars placed in circulation, the stronger our program will be in creating additional interest in Alaska. You have seen a few of the things we are doing, with some to follow... and you can help by accepting and using these trade dollars, by supporting your local merchants who accept them, and when "outside" by patronizing those merchants who display the Welcome Alaskans signs.

Alaska Boosters Association

HEADQUARTERS, 1120 FOURTH AVENUE • SEATTLE • Mutual 2-3981

PRC PRESS REPORT #4

Subject: TRADE DOLLARS

The Alaska Boosters Association is an organization of businessmen who have investments in both the Northwest and Alaska. The welfare of both areas is of our particular concern. We have undertaken an ambitious program encompassing dual objectives: to work with the Alaska people in publicizing Alaska thru our intensive SEE ALASKA TOO campaign, and to work with the Northwest businessmen in bringing more Alaskan business directly to them.

One of the parts of our program is the circulation of the Alaska Booster Trade Dollars, both in Alaska and "outside". We are encouraging the Alaskans to bring with them some of the tens of thousands of SEE ALASKA TOO trade dollars to spend with the many progressive Northwest merchants who are cooperating with our program in accepting these coins in trade. We are encouraging the Alaskans to patronize those merchants who display the Welcome Alaskans greeting signs.

The value of SEE ALASKA TOO trade dollars is assured by ample cash reserves in special bank accounts to reimburse the cooperating merchants for the "coins" accepted in trade. Special mailers are available for those who wish to send dollars to friends.

Ours is not the only trade dollars in circulation, of course... but we are told they are unusually striking and attractive, thanks to the skill of the finest designers and engravers, and the quality of the materials used. Tens of thousands are being purchased as keepsakes.

This announcement is being made to acquaint all the friends of Alaska with the SEE ALASKA TOO trade dollars program, to thank the many progressive merchants who are already cooperating, and to suggest that other establishments not yet contacted may reach us at our Headquarters.

Seattle Phone: Mutual 2-3981

J. Pepple
ALASKA BOOSTERS ASSOCIATION

Anchorage Daily Times, May 3, 1962.

visiting Seattle to patronize merchants displaying the Association's emblem.

The Seattle World's Fair opened on April 21, 1962. The day before the Fair opened the Anchorage Daily Times reported that Ron Pepple of Seattle, president of Alaska Boosters, said the association would be operating an expo-lodging office "to house visitors who travel to Alaska as well as the fair." Pepple said "Our objective is to expose virtually every one of the 10 million World's Fair visitors to the [See Alaska Too] slogan and to encourage them to consider a trip to Alaska at this time." Pepple was also President of the Northwest Sales Company, a distributor of coin operated machines, and manager of the Seattle office serving Alaska and Washington. He served in the Army in Alaska during World War II.

AN ILL-FATED VENTURE, cont.

As previously reported in this newsletter, the trade dollars circulated in Kodiak in a program sponsored by the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce. The Anchorage Daily Times reported on June 9, 1962 that the "MATANUSKA Valley merchants are now putting into circulation souvenir trade dollars, which are being purchased on consignment from the Alaska Boosters Association" in a project sponsored by the Matanuska Valley Chamber of Commerce. Similarly, the Anchorage Daily Times carried a news item on June 16, 1962 that the Greater Soldotna Chamber of Commerce voted to sponsor circulation of 2,000 of the trade dollar with the profit made from those kept as souvenirs to be split with the Alaska Boosters Association. O.G. Bittner, long time Anchorage businessman who was also one of the Alaska Boosters directors, had made the trade dollar presentation to the Soldotna Chamber.

Although the Kodiak Mirror's account of the trade dollar presentation made by Bittner to the Kodiak Chamber described him as being from Seattle, he was a member of the prominent Anchorage Bittner family, had served as president of the Alaska Brewing Company and for many years was the owner and operator of Sportland on 4th Avenue in Anchorage, a 24 hour restaurant and amusement place. Bittner presumably purchased coin operated machines for Sportland from Ron Pepple's Northwest Sales.

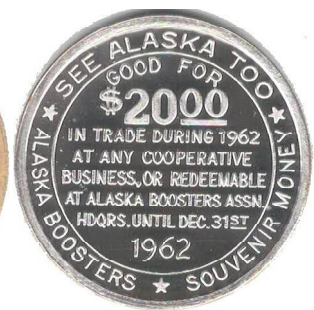
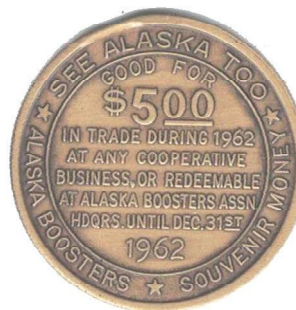
Unfortunately, all did not go well for the Alaska Boosters trade dollar promotion. Although the Association was successful in selling its program to some of the local Chambers of Commerce, it apparently overlooked reaching out to the State of Alaska Chamber of Commerce to get its endorsement for the trade dollar program. The Anchorage Times reported on April 30, 1962 that the State of Alaska "Chamber denounced the issue and circulation of souvenir trade coins bearing the word 'Alaska' which have not been approved by the state government" and said the "trade coins inscribed 'Alaska' are creating confusion in Seattle, where souvenir 'trade dollars' are being circulated in conjunction with the world's fair." Robert A. Baker, president of the State of Alaska Chamber of Commerce explained that:

The world's fair trade dollars are acceptable in place of regular U.S. currency by retailers throughout Washington, but the Alaska coins are not being accepted by most Seattle merchants.

If the current confusion in Seattle is not resolved by voluntary withdrawal in the near future our state Chamber organization intends to urge the state administration to take steps to protect the name of America's largest state.

Perhaps Baker's adverse reaction to the trade dollars was partially influenced by the fact that he was also President of the Matanuska Valley Bank and had a preference for U.S. Currency. In any event, the end result was that the See Alaska Too trade dollar program did not even make it to the end of the Seattle World's Fair which closed on October 21, 1962. As previously reported in this newsletter, the Alaska Boosters Association was told by the U.S. Treasury Department in early October that the trade dollars could not be used as a medium of exchange and the Association had to stop their distribution and collect the remaining trade dollars.

The opposition of the U.S. government and the State Chamber of Commerce basically spelled the end of the Alaska Boosters Association. The corporation was involuntarily dissolved by the State of Alaska in 1976 because the Association after 1962 failed to file the required annual reports or maintain a registered agent and office.



The Alaska Boosters See Alaska Too \$5 and \$20 tokens were likely just a fabrication by Global Exchange.

Collectors of all varieties of the Alaska Boosters tokens should note that there are two patterns from re-

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AH KING REVISITED



Three Ah King tokens from Seattle popped up on eBay last month. We had an article on Ah King in the January, 2015 issue. At that time his death was reported as a murder, but then changed to suicide. Articles in the newspapers on the LoC do not shed much light on his death. In fact, they muddy it.

Two articles are interesting. The first, written with tongue firmly implanted in cheek. The second, sort of an obituary by a person who considered Ah King to be a friend. You can draw your own conclusions.

Seattle Star, June 27, 1912.

Ah King, Seattle's Chinese Town Mayor, Is Quite Impoverished; Read His Sad Tale.

Ah. King entertained a small party of friends at the Pekin cafe last evening. One of the guests told a story which Ah King enjoyed as much as any one. It runs like this:

When William J. Burns was here investigating the Wappenstein charges, he grilled Ah King. The "mayor of Chinatown" Burns suspected of having paid Wappy for "protection." He asked Ah King a thousand questions and got as many answers, not one of which threw any light on the subject.

"Ah King," thundered Burns, "who got the money?" "Mister Burns," said Ah King, "Jus' two men got the money.."

Burns thought he was getting at the truth at last. "And who were they?"

"Mister Rockefeller and Mister Morgan. They got it all."

Burns quit.

A Model Host

Ah King is a model host. It is a lesson in hospitality to see him serve chop suey. Though a rich man, he has tact and delicacy not always apparent in wealthy Occidentals. His method of putting the humble guest at his ease is making him believe that the host, too, is poor. Someone remarked that the Pekin is a fine cafe.

"Yes," assented Ah King, "but no pay. Lose much money." His gentle mouth took on the droop of sorrow.

Needs Sympathy.

We sympathized with him, and he helped us to more

The Chinese Village....

Ah King Co., Concessionaires

THE MOST POPULAR ATTRACTION AT THE EXPOSITION

A pronounced success from the beginning.

The Shanghai troupe did not arrive for the opening on account of delayed steamer from China, but will present an amusing program in the Chinese Theatre next week, assisted by the native orchestra.

The Chinese Temple has been viewed and praised by many thousands. Do not miss it. It is the best ever seen in America.

Thousands enjoy the Pavilion, the coolest and most delightful resort in the grounds.

Many new attractions coming.

The Chinese Band has made a hit. Do not fail to hear it.

chop suey. He dropped, it appears, \$25,000 at the exposition. He financed the Chinese village. He still has \$15,000 worth of curios in his cellar.

He has also, a store in Washington street, but it barely pays expenses. He has another cafe in Seattle, besides the Pekin, and a new one in Tacoma. They are constant drains on his impoverished resources.

Not to mention four canneries in Alaska. Canneries are an expensive luxury. We felt sorry for Ah King, and thus a bond of sympathy was established, for we, too, are poor.

Ah King Company

General Chinese Merchandise

Wholesalers and Retailers

217 Washington St.
Telephone Main 2896
SEATTLE, WASH.

AH KING REVISTED, cont.

Ah King came to America when he was a small boy. In the 38 years he has been in the country he has had many ups and downs. There have been more downs than ups. Those who know him best attribute his ultimate success to his unfailing good nature and his gambler's nerve. He gambles on a long chance the way the average white man gambles on a sure thing.

When a young man he returned to China, married, and after three children were born, his wife died. The children are still there, being educated. Before long Ah King expects to bring them to America. He lives for that time.

He is the recognized head of the local Chinese colony. Newcomers go to him for advice. Those in trouble go to him for help. If he has a hobby, it is the education of the children. Many a Chinese youngster has been educated at Ah King's expense. He never talks about his philanthropies.

He is a member of the Hip Sing tong. It is, he says without batting an eye, a nice fraternity, whose members are all brothers. Its only mission is to promote good fellowship. Ah King has heard it said that there are bad tongs, but he has no personal knowledge of them. He has read with interest of tong wars and bloody feuds. He shudders at the thought that men should quarrel. Is there a twinkle in his eyes!

No, no! There is no truth in that story about his being shot at as he darted up the stairway to the club room of the Hip Sing tong.

Seattle Star, July 23, 1915.

PENITENTIARY FOR GAMBLERS

There's the very deuce to pay on Profanity Hill.

It seems that somebody made a "mistake" in raiding a Chinese gambling hall a while back, and got a bunch of Chinese who have many prominent and influential connections. The gambling joint was located at 219 Washington st. The property is owned by Ah King, wealthy Chinese merchant.

As it happened, the officers got the yellow men with the goods, and it looks like such a dead open-and-shut case that the Prosecuting Attorney Lundin is going to try to convict the offenders on a felony

charge, instead of permitting them to plead guilty to a misdemeanor and take a fine, as has been the custom.

Seattle Star, September 1, 1915.

Seattle's Wealthiest Chinese Meets His End by Bullet in Sacramento

Boalt tells how rich old man found happiness in giving to others.

by Fred L. Boalt

By the death of Ah King I have lost a friend. I liked him without in the least understanding him.

At these dinners little Ah King seemed overwhelmed with pleased embarrassment. In gentle, broken phrases he told us how honored he felt to have us with him. During these dinners he scarcely talked at all, but sat in his place, squirming with pleasure and listening to our noisy chatter with the politest interest.

At Christmas-time he gave lavishly, to Orientals and Occidentals alike. When the Fourth of July came 'round, every poor child, white or yellow, in Chinatown received a supply of fireworks from Ah King. Young Chinese boys he sent to school and college. The poor of his district he succored from a distance. All these things he did quietly, secretly, as the ashamed.

Ah King's bete noir was that racial passion of the Chinese - gambling. Sharpers, white and yellow, laid in wait for him. It was borne in upon him that the money these "friends" took from him was not honestly won.

Nor was that all. The Chinese standard of living and morals are not the American standards. The Chinese must pay the penalty for violations of American law if they do these things in which they see no wrong and if they get caught.

Ah King was interested in at least one gambling establishment. In this he was a law-breaker, but he suffered no pricks of conscience. But men whom he regarded as friends double-crossed him. Shyster lawyers black-mailed him. Tricksters set all kinds of pitfalls for him.

AH KING REVISTED, cont.

There is talk that Ah King was murdered, perhaps by some member of a rival tong. It may be so.

Chee How (a cousin) is on his way to Sacramento. He will bring the body back to Seattle.

Seattle Star, September 4, 1915.

Chee How Missing

Chee How, one of the Chinese who went to Sacramento to investigate the death of Ah King, the Seattle Chinese philanthropist, who was found dead in a hotel in that city Monday, is missing. Friends are worried over their inability to locate him. Word came from Wong Mon Hoy, who left here with Chee How, that he believed Ah King's death was suicide.

The murder/suicide of Ah King is still a mystery. Ah King disappears in the Washington papers after his death. Likewise, there is no further mention of Chee How. The other man sent to investigate his death, Wong Mon Hoy says it was suicide. Sounds like a cover up to me.



Ah King owned canneries in Alaska. Tokens were issued for his Hunters Bay Cannery.



The real mystery for token collectors are the Ah King tokens dated 1916. We believe that he provided labor for salmon canneries. Was that the intended use of this token?

Ah King's numismatic legacy is a bit of mystery, just like his death.

LABOR CONTRACTORS

Ah King owned salmon canneries in Alaska and was also a labor contractor. Press coverage of labor contractors in Alaska was not positive.

News items describe conditions at the canneries and the labor contractors and laborers.

Mentioned most often are Chinese labor contractors and Chinese and Filipino laborers. There is no mention of Japanese contractors or laborers in Alaska. We know there were Japanese in Alaska, but find no evidence of contract labor.



Which brings into question Sugiya & Co., Contractor for Salmon Packers. The tokens were good for use in ship only.

The only Sugiya found in Alaska or California papers in connection with salmon is a Japanese national accused of murder at a cannery, transported to San Francisco, and released because it was ruled as self-defence. Sugiya appears in only 17 newspapers nationwide on the LoC.

But there is one reference to Japanese contact labor in Alaska newspapers:

Daily Alaskan, Skagway, Sept. 2, 1907.

CANADIANS SEEKING EXCLUSION OF JAP LABOR.

Vancouver, Sept. 2 - The Canadians have organized all parts of the affected provinces into anti-Asian clubs and are awaiting the arrival of Chief Officer of Foreign Commerce Ishii, who is expected here shortly. The organization claims it has evidence that a combination exists between the Japanese consul at Vancouver and the Japanese in Japan by means of which men are recruited in Japan and sent over for labor contractors in British Columbia.

Perhaps our British Columbia collectors should examine their newspapers for any evidence of Sugiya & Co.

J.R. ALGUIRE

Alaska Daily Empire, Juneau, July 22, 1913.

Lucky Fox Hunter Makes Quick Strike

J. R. Alguire, who is operating a store near the Pueblo Mine, is in luck these days. Recently he grubstaked a couple of young men to hunt for young foxes and they were fortunate enough to secure a pure black female cub which Mr. Alguire now has at his place. The young fox is worth upward of \$2,000. Whitehorse Star.

Daily Alaskan, Skagway, April 11, 1914.

Burglary at Whitehorse

The store of J.R. Alguire which is located near the Pueblo mine was forcibly entered Monday night of this week when about \$200 in gold and bills were taken. A similar amount of cash and checks to the value of \$125 were overlooked. G.A. Gain, who is in charge of the store, was there until 11 o'clock that night when he locked up and went to a neighbor for Mrs. Gain. They returned about midnight and found the store had been robbed. There is said to be a fairly good clue to the identity of the thief - Whitehorse Star.



WHITEHORSE: J.R. Alguire, 25¢ in trade,
B-1a, AU or better. **100.00**

MT. ROBERTS TRAMWAY



JUNEAU: Mt. Roberts Tramway, presumably brass, 38mm. I was sure this had been in the newsletter before, but it is not in the index. Price realized on eBay, **\$51.00!!!** Two bidders really went after it. A second sold for \$7.57.

CACHE CREEK



Cache Creek is in the Yentna Mining District, north and west of Talkeetna on the Petersville Road. Gold was discovered on Cache Creek in 1906. Discovery claim is near the head of the stream. Mining was carried out in numerous places between the mouths of Spruce Creek and Nugget Creek. The pay gravel was at an average depth of 50 feet. Cassiterite is also present. Approximately 3,650 ounces of gold were mined through 1956. Mining continues today.

I made (19) 1 DWT tokens from Cache Creek gold.



Estimated fineness, by specific gravity is .841.

Tokens are available for \$125, postpaid.

ILL-FATED VENTURE, cont.



jected dies: a dog team and a sitting bear. These patterns are struck on thick brass planchets (as opposed to the thin planchets used on the original tokens), have reeded edges and proof-like surfaces.

DAWSON TOKENS FOR SALE



B & M, 12½¢ in trade, B-4a, XF+
As above, XF+, but with a stain

125.
100.



McHenry & Drake, 25¢, B-16a, AU+ 350.



Davies & Frey, 12½¢, B-7a. Looks like it
has been in a fire, but would clean up. 100.



Monte Carlo, 25¢, B-17a, VG+ 450.



Del Monte, Kreling & Cooke, bifacial,
no denomination, B-9b, XF+ dark 325.



Palace Cigar Store, A. Smith, bifacial,
Benice listed under Fairbanks. Re-
search shows this is from Dawson.
A really wretched specimen from
the Cleary hoard discovered in
1990. See Apr/May 1991. 50.



Floridora, 25¢, B-11a, VF (shown above)
as above, XF 125.
225.



Red Feather Saloon, B-20a, 25¢, XF+ 250.



Hutton & Pearse, 2 Bits, Souvenir Clean-up,
B-13a, XF+, naturally dark 150.



Tanana Hotel Bar & Pool Room, 25¢, B-21a
AU 125.



Kilgore & Landahl, Bifacial, B-14a, XF 100.

PRICES ARE PLUS SHIPPING. WE WILL SHIP ON APPROVAL IN THE U.S. YOU CAN PAY UPON RECEIPT AND ADD THE ACTUAL POSTAGE. CANADIAN CUSTOMERS, PLEASE CONTACT US.

AUCTION TO BE HELD IN FAIRBANKS

APRIL 29, 2022.

Bids accepted until Noon, April 29 - Auction begins 7:00PM
By mail: Alaska Rare Coins, 551-B Second Ave. Fairbanks, AK 99701
By phone: 907-452-6461 By email: akcoins@mosquitonet.com

ALASKA TOKENS & MEDALS

ESTIMATE

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <p>218 Alaska Tokens: Palmer, Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corp., set of 8; 1¢, 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, \$1, \$5 and \$10, B-1 a-h, all AU or better, except for the 25¢ which is XF. There are also scratches on one side of the \$1. All still show original luster. These tokens are extremely popular, being listed in Red Book and Breen's Encyclopedia. Appearances on eBay are dwindling (except for the 10¢). A set was offered at a price in excess of \$5,000 (a bit high) and went unsold. It will take a strong bid to be the winner on this set.</p> | 2,500.+ |
| <p>219 Alaska Tokens: Palmer, Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corp., 50¢ only, B-1e, EF+ with a scratch.</p> | 200.+ |
| <p>220 Alaska Booster \$5 Trade Coins, 1962 (1986). With the success of the 1959 Fairbanks Trade Dollar, the Alaska Boosters (whoever they were - see page 49) decided to issue a trade dollar at the Seattle World's Fair to promote tourism to Alaska. As near as we can tell, 2,000 were released in Kodiak by the Chamber of Commerce. Shortly thereafter, the Treasury Department demanded that they be recalled. In 1986, a firm issued \$20 (silver) and \$5 (bronze), in sets of 10, using the original moose design, and nine other designs. We offer here the set of ten \$5 trade coins in bronze. Obviously, these were never used and were sold as collectibles. They are still in their original snap-lock plastic case with deteriorating foam. The medals are protected from this in their individual capsules. We see the silver sets more frequently than we see the bronze.</p> | 100.+ |
| <p>221 Fairbanks Coin Club Medal Set, 1965. Issued to commemorate the First Annual Coin Convention held at the old Fairbanks Inn on South Cushman Street. A gold panner is on the obverse, while the reverse has a nice circumpolar map, noting the "Farthest North Coin Club. Sterling silver .79 ASW) and bronze matched numbered set. Two pieces.</p> | 50. |
| <p>222 Official Alaska Purchase Centennial Medal Set, 1967. These huge, high relief medals by Medallic Art Co. are 64mm in diameter. The .999 fine silver medal weigh 5.2 troy ounces. The matching bronze is also included and they are housed in a custom Capital Plastics holder. An extremely high relief portrait of Seward is on the obverse, the Purchase Centennial Totem is on the reverse.</p> | 200. |
| <p>223 State of Alaska 1/10 oz. Gold Medal, 1990. Only 120 were minted by Alaska Precious Metals under contract with the state featuring puffins on the obverse. Rare.</p> | 300.+ |
| <p>224 1 oz. Silver State of Alaska Medals, 1996, featuring the caribou. Rumor has it the Alaska Mint clashed the proof-like dies. Rather than cut a new die, the dies were sand blasted, giving them a matte finish. Proof-like medals closely resemble proof medals with frosted fields and polished fields. The easiest way to tell the difference is that the Alaska Mint proofs have a plain, hallmarked edge while the proof-likes have a reeded edge. We offer here an example of the proof-like and the matte finish, in their original holders. The Alaska Mint still calls the matte finish medals proof-like. Total mintage for both types was 2,975. Two medals.</p> | 90.+ |
| <p>225 1 oz. Silver Pioneers of Alaska Convention Medals. Included are Ketchikan 1999, Sitka 2000, Kenai/Homer 2003, Juneau 2004, and Palmer 2005. All are in their original cases. 5 medals.</p> | 200. |
| <p>226 State of Alaska Silver Medals, 1997: 1/10 oz. (1,359), ¼ oz. (1,175), and ½ oz. (950) Proofs, and 1 oz. matte finish (1,565), mintages in (). All in original holders. Four medals.</p> | 90.+ |
| <p>227 Tiny State of Alaska Silver Medals, all Proof. Included are 1/20 oz. 1996, 1999, 2005 and 2006. 1/10 oz. 1997, 1999, 2001 and 2002. All in their original holders, the 1999 1/10 missing its card. 8 medals.</p> | 80.+ |

FUR RENDEZVOUS BUTTONS

ESTIMATE

228 **Rare Fur Rendezvous Buttons.** Here are three Fur Rondy buttons we have not seen before. These were hand made by Hazel and Sylvia Butcher. The first is dated 1962 and has reindeer antler purple ribbon. The tag attached to it states that it was made by Anchorage Goodwill Industries. The next is dated 1963 and it is an Eskimo girl in a parka. The face is ceramic. Finally (2) undated ceramic husky face pins on blue felt. One is in good condition, the other a bit tattered. These are accompanied by an article from the Anchorage Daily News titled "Mud, felt, ribbon: The most coveted Fur Rondy Pins were hand made in Anchorage living rooms." You can view this article by googling "mud, felt, ribbon, fur rondy." These are the earliest Fur Rondy pins we have seen. A rare opportunity not likely to be repeated.

500.+

ONE OUNCE SILVER MEDALS



ALASKA BOOSTERS, \$20 1 OZ. SILVER. 8 pieces from a set of 10. Your choice.

\$38.00 each



CONGRESSMAN DON YOUNG, Standing up for Alaska, 25 years of service, 1973-1998, U.S. House of Representatives.

\$35.00

DELTA JUNCTION, End of the Alaska Highway.

\$45.00

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PAPER ITEMS FOR SALE, all shown at reduced size.



ANCHORAGE: Salvation Army, Good for one hearty meal, 1966. Worn, looks like it was carried in a wallet. Black on pale green or blue, 112mm by 59mm. **\$20.00**



ANCHORAGE: Corbin's Sterling Service Coupon Book. (11) coupons with no evidence that any have been removed. Each coupon is dated, good in the month, from February 1959 to January 1960. Book cover brown is on tan, coupons green on white, 135mm by 62mm. **25.00**



FAIRBANKS: Elks Club 1551, Alaska Golden Days, Millionaire Night, \$50, Exchange Rate 1 to 10. Green on stiff paper, 172mm by 75mm. **20.00**



JUNEAU: Bits of Gold coupon book, presumably issued for use during the Gold Medal basketball tournament. (15) drink coupons at different establishments, and one bonus, and one for a sample of Brut for men. All void after March 8, 1969. Cover is black on gold, coupons are black on light green, about 135mm by 59mm. **25.00**



JUNEAU: Downtown Union 76, (8) \$1, seven with expiration dates between 12/31/90 and 12/31/93, and (1) \$5 with no expiration date. About 144mm by 64mm. Most are AU or better, the \$1 without an expiration date is a bit frayed and folded in the middle. (9) pieces total. **25.00**



ESTER/FAIRBANKS/DENALI: Ester Gold Camp, one dinner, 2007; (Fairbanks) Alaska Salmon Bake \$8, 2005; McKinley/Denali Salmon Bake, \$1 or 50¢. All three for **\$15.00**